

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:06 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2006.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Rizzardi, Warner, White, and Chairperson Hoffman.

Absent: Commissioner Lew.

Also Present: Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

MOTION: Commissioner White moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Lew for the June 15, 2006 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Deemer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Hoffman welcomed former Water Commissioner Deane Haddon.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner White moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES FROM MAY 18, 2006

MOTION: Commissioner White moved for the approval of the May 18, 2006 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Rizzardi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew).

7A. PRESENTATION BY EXXON-MOBIL REFINERY REGARDING MEASURES TO REMEDIATE CHROMIUM 6 PLUME

This item was considered out of order.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden introduced Exxon-Mobil representatives Project Manager Holly Saffold and West Region Public Affairs Manager Carolin Keith.

Public Affairs Manager Keith introduced the item and noted that the remediation project has been an excellent opportunity for the City and Exxon-Mobil to work together. She reported that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board directed Exxon-Mobil to be more inclusive of the community in remediation projects. She stated that the fact sheet included in the material of record has gone out to a distribution list that included elected officials, City staff, the Community Advisory Board, as well as the owners of the Mediterranean Villas located across the street from the project. She added that a presentation was given to the Community Advisory Board and that the homeowners association of the Mediterranean Villas was invited to attend. She stated that Exxon-Mobil was pleased with the City and community interaction, noting their understanding that it is a safe project going forward.

Commissioner White suggested that it would be good public relations to include the broader voluntary homeowners association on their notification list. There was a brief discussion regarding the actual homeowners association that is in the immediate area.

Public Affairs Manager Keith explained that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board defined the radius of concern and that only the Mediterranean Villas was within that radius. She stated that City Clerk's office informed her that the area's homeowners association would not have a vested interest, adding that a member of the Advisory Board might be in the homeowners association.

Responding to MWD Director Wright's inquiry regarding the purpose of remediation, Project Manager Saffold stated that, although there is no threat to human health or environment, it was decided to take care of the plume now while there is access to it, rather than have it be a lingering issue in the future.

Project Manager Saffold provided an overview presentation regarding Exxon-Mobil's efforts to remediate the plume of Chromium 6 that was discovered adjacent to the Del Amo Boulevard roadway extension. She described the Torrance Refinery Groundwater Protection Program for the southwest parcel, noting that the project area is adjacent to the City Yard, bounded by Prairie Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard. She stated that a windscreen privacy fence has been installed around the area for safety reasons.

She reported that hexavalent chromium (Chromium 6) was detected in one monitoring well in October 2000. She noted that it was located within the soil, at a depth of 25 to 75 feet below ground surface, and was trapped in the perched groundwater zone on a confining layer of clay. She stated that the area of contamination was isolated and noted that there has been no detection of hexavalent chromium in samples taken from deeper aquifers and surrounding monitoring wells.

Responding to Chairperson Hoffman's inquiry, Exxon-Mobil representatives offered speculations on how the Chromium 6 got there and explained that it was used as a corrosive inhibitor and coating for stainless steel. She noted that aerial photographs have determined that it was there in 1928 and 1947, but was gone by 1954.

She presented the two-phase remediation program that includes injecting calcium polysulfide to chemically reduce hexavalent to trivalent chromium (Chromium 3), which is more stable and does not cause any potential health risks, monitoring soil and groundwater concentrations, and evaluating the effectiveness of the treatment. She explained that the contamination would be treated below ground surface to ensure that there are no potential health effects or exposure routes, emphasizing that it did not pose a threat to drinking water.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, she explained that it would take approximately two weeks to complete the injection. She advised that the remediation process would be reviewed by the Water Board and be finished by October 2006 in advance of the road-widening project.

Commissioners initiated discussion centered on whether the general public should be notified and educated about the remediation project. Exxon-Mobil stated that its position has been not to inform the general public about the Chromium 6 mitigation project at the refinery.

West Region Public Affairs Manager Carolin Keith briefly discussed a compressor failure that occurred at Exxon-Mobil on June 14, 2006 and provided details regarding a maintenance worker who was injured on June 15, 2006.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that the Water Department does water quality testing on a regular basis, adding that there were approximately ten soil remediations ongoing in the City at any given time. He thanked Exxon-Mobil representatives for their presentation and stated that he felt comfortable with the project and the radius of influence that has been notified.

The Commission was in recess from 8:09 p.m. to 8:16 p.m.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. WATER COMMISSION REVIEW REGARDING COMPARISON OF REVISED WATER CONSERVATION SECTION OF CITY'S GENERAL PLAN UPDATE AND COMMISSION CONSERVATION POLICY STATEMENT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the material of record that provides a comparison between the draft Conservation Element to the Sub-Committee's Water Conservation Policy Statement. He reviewed items in the Water Conservation Policy Statement, noting where they have been incorporated in the draft Conservation Element's Goals, Policies, and Objectives and the Urban Water Management Plan, noting differences of wording and format.

Responding to Commissioner's White's inquiry, he explained that the General Plan was a broad policy document to be used for guidance. He emphasized that implementation and enforcement measures to support the policies would be considered later and that many were included in the Urban Water Management Plan.

Commissioner White suggested and the Commission decided that "collection and recycling of runoff" in Policy 2.X:E should be moved to Policy 2X:F.

MOTION: Commissioner Warner moved to adopt the draft Goals, Objectives, and Policies of the Water Conservation section of the City's General Plan update as

modified. Commissioner White seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew).

Commissioner Rizzardi initiated a brief discussion on conditioning new developments to implement conservation measures and goals outlined in the City's Strategic Plan.

Commissioner White suggested that the Water Commission meet with the Planning Commission as well as the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission to develop ways to implement specific conservation measures.

8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that at the June 6, 2006 meeting the Water Master reported that Department of Water Resources was requesting \$150,000 from the Water Replenishment District for services of mediator Jim Waldo to continue discussion regarding conjunctive use.

He stated that West Basin reported on the progress of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), water rate increases, the Water Conservation Master Plan, and the separation of Central and West Basin management and staff.

He reported that Water Replenishment District discussed amending the current groundwater judgment regarding carryover, pumping assessment rate increases, the status of the West Basin Operation Study and modeling to optimize the use of West Basin, and the saline concentration of water from the Goldsworthy Desalter. He noted that the Desalter Working Group would convene to discuss strategies and options.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden recommended that the Commission accept and file the monthly department report.

MOTION: Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, moved to accept and file the Deputy Public Works Director's Report as presented; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew).

10. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright reported that the California Dental Association Foundation is financing all the equipment to fluoridate drinking water in Southern California a year from now.

He suggested that the Commission promote water conservation measures through the Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he stated that the Colorado River water shed precipitation was approximately 80% of normal and Northern California was approximately 140-160% of normal, noting that there was still water going out under the Golden Gate Bridge and that reservoirs are full.

11. ORALS

11A. Chairperson Hoffman stated that he enjoyed attending the June 3, 2006 City Yard Open House and tour of the desalter.

11B. Commissioner White noted that there was a Los Angeles Times article on the Sierra's snow pack on June 15, 2006.

11C. Commissioner Warner stated that he also enjoyed the City Yard Open House and introduced his guest Rodger Barclay.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:08 p.m., Commissioner White moved to adjourn the meeting to July 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Hoffman so ordered.

Approved as Amended July 20, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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